

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4713

INFO AMEMBASSYOTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH ENRG RO

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR US/GOR BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: A. BUCH 4763; B. STATE 199548; C. DUNLOP LETTER TO
VIETS 8/25/75; D. BUCH 3660; E. OTTAWA 3408

1. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S SEPT 20 TALK WITH URSU (REF A),
SCNE VICE PRESIDENT RODEAN ADMITTED TO SCIATT THAT THE
ROMANIAN SIDE WELL UNDERSTOOD THE CIRCULAR LOGIC OF THEIR
REQUEST FOR A US RESPONSE ON THE NUCLEAR BILATERAL ISSUE
WHEN REQUIRED BACKGROUND INFORMATION WAS STILL UNAVAILABLE
FROM THE GOR ITSELF (REF A PARA 6). HOWEVER, AS MUCH
NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE ROMANIAN NUCLEAR
PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM US AND US-CANADIAN AFFILIATES,
GOR FEELS STRONG NEED FOR SOME INDICATION THE US WOULD BE FAVORABLY
DISPOSED, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, TO CONSIDER THE SALE OF
ENTIRE COMPLEX OF EQUIPMENT WITHIN THE GENERAL CATEGORIES
OUTLINED REF A PARA 2.

2. RODEAN ARGUED THAT US "ASSURANCES" IN THIS CONTEXT NEED
NOT BE IN THE FORM OF ANY OFFICIAL AGREEMENT. AN EXCHANGE
OF LETTERS OR "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" MAY SUFFICE TO REASSURE
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THE INTERESTED PARTIES THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT ENCOUNTER

UNFORESEEN POLICY OBSTACLES. HE ADDED THAT INDIVIDUAL TRANSFERS OF TECHNOLOGY WOULD CONTRIBUTE THEIR OWN MOMENTUM TO THE ROMANIAN CASE FOR A NUCLEAR BILATERAL, DETAILS OF WHICH COULD BE WORKED OUT OVER NEXT FEW YEARS.

3. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR (SEPTEMBER 17) AND WITH MILTON ROSENTHAL, CHAIRMAN OF U.S. SECTION OF ROMANIAN-US ECONOMIC COUNCIL (SEPTEMBER 23), DEPY PM PATAN ALSO EMPHASIZED ROMANIAN INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH US ON NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION. IN EARLIER SESSION AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO CONGRESSIONAL SENSITIVITY TO NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS AND POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR FROM INFORMATION GOR HAD MADE AVAILABLE TO US WHETHER BILATERAL REALLY NECESSARY. AMBASSADOR TOLD PATAN THAT WE WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO KNOW HOW TO PROCEED IF GOR WOULD PROVIDE US WITH INFORMATION ON ITS NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS. PATAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GBR PREPARATION OF ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT PLANS WOUL INDEED BE NECESSARY STEP. DURING LATER MEETING WITH ROSENTHAL PATAN DESCEIBED NUCLEAR POWER AS ONE OF FOUR AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH U.S. WHICH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU HAD INSTRUCTED HIM THAT MORNING TO GIVE PRIORITY.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY VIEWS GOR PERSISTENCE ON THE NUCLEAR BILATERAL THEME AS SYMPTOMATIC OF STATE PLANNING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND BEYOND, NOT AS QUESTION OF IMMEDIATE TECHNOLOGICAL NECESSITY. EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO ROMANIAN THINKING WOULD BE THE UNDOUBTEDLY HIGH POLITICAL VALUE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENTS WITH THE US, BUT WE BELIEVE GOR IS PROMOTING THE BILATERAL REQUEST ON SEVERAL FRONTS MAINLY TO ENSURE ITS TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC PLANNERS ROOM FOR MANEUVERING. IN THE EVENT ROMANIAN TECHNICAL ADVISORS HAVE EXAGGERATED THEIR ESTIMATES OF DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT CAPABILITIES, A FAVORABLE LONG-TERM NEGOTIATING CLIMATE IN CANADA WOULD ENCHANCE THEIR OPPORTUNITIES TO FILL IN KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND MODIFY NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT PLANS AS THEY MOVE ALONG. IF SECURE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE SHORT RUN BY US APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT LIST PROVIDED BY BOGDAN (REF A) AND RODEAN (REF D), ROMANIANS LIKELY WILL LOOK FOR ADVICE FROM WESTERN FIRMS IN DRAWING UP TENDERS ON WHICH TO PROMOTE THEIR CASE FOR NUCLEAR BILATERAL AGREEMENT.
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EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AND STATUS OF PRELIMINARY REPLY BOGDAN WAS TOLD MIGHT BE AVAILABLE BY EARLY SEPTEMBER.
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